

middle of October. I met with the present species near the Lower Oxus, and in the undulating thinly bush-covered sandwastes, as also in the densely bush-covered alluvial marly-clay country, never very far from water, round which they fly after sunset. On the Lower Syr (Jaxartes) it was rarer; and here I first noticed it,—and received specimens also from Krasnovodsk, on the east coast of the Caspian.”

[To be continued.]

XIX.—*Ornithological Notes made during Trips between Bloemfontein and the Lydenburg Gold-fields.* By F. A. BARRATT.

(Plate IV.)

ON my first journey I started from Kingwilliamstown in the Cape colony, having well stocked my light waggon with all the ammunition and apparatus necessary for collecting, not forgetting my “Layard;” but I did not keep any particular record of the birds obtained in the district, and I propose to treat in the present paper only of the birds observed in the northern part of the Orange Free State, from Bloemfontein onwards; my notes made during sundry expeditions in the Transvaal Republic will also be embodied.

Leaving the capital in the month of February, we had scarcely proceeded two or three miles, when we came upon about a dozen Stanley Cranes (*Anthropoides stanleyanus*) sporting and dancing; to their considerable astonishment I dropped a bullet among them, which made them stalk off majestically, shaking their beautiful long plumes as they went. About four miles further on we came to Rhinoceros Spruit, where large numbers of Coursers were gliding, as it were, in and out of the stunted herbage; whilst Plovers (*Hoplopterus coronatus*) were wheeling about in every direction, uttering their harsh cries. Thence we went to the Modder river; and in the vleys running parallel with the stream were to be seen the pretty Weaverbirds (*Euplectes taha*) bobbing up and down like a golden ball, and *Chera progne* with its gracefully sweeping tail. It was in the bush near the above-named river that I first shot the Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Coccyzus glan-*

darius) in November 1874. A short distance from this I found some Francolins (*F. afer*) near the foot of the mountains, and from the long grass my dog started a few Quail.

Proceeding towards Sandy's River, leaving Wynberg a few miles to the right, we met with many water-birds, such as Wild Geese, Duck, Coots, Moorhens, and Grebes, started out of the vleys and ditches, whilst in the long waving grass the cackling noise of the "Scolding Cock" (*Eupodotis afra*) often startled us as it flew up suddenly from under our feet, the more wary *E. scolopacea* only allowing us to approach it in circles. Ten miles or so to the north of Sandy's River the route lay through a lonely glen threaded by a sparkling stream, in which could be detected large fish of all shades of colour, rolling over in the deepest pools: here it was that I first saw the Night-Heron and the Great African Kingfisher, the latter falling to my gun. This glen is a favourite collecting-ground of mine; and I have at different times procured Guinea-fowl, Golden Cuckoos, many species of Hawks (notably *Melierax niger*), and the Spotted Eagle-Owl (*Bubo maculosus*). I also found *Euplectes capensis* and *E. oryx* breeding in considerable numbers in the reeds on an adjoining farm, where also many of the smaller Warblers were abundant. A few miles further on some mountains are reached; and here, hopping about among the stones, were Thrushes and Stonechats. The mountainous country is followed by a large flat, varied by a few slight undulations, after which the village of Kronstadt is reached. About ten miles from this I saw for the first time the Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*) in a wild state; nor have I ever observed them south of this point. On a "spruit" about twenty miles distant, I came across some Spoonbills and sundry Herons (*Ardea cinerea*), which I afterwards found were in the habit of building in a willow tree from year to year. Hence onward to Rhinoster Kop, where formerly wild dogs abounded, and where the cry of the Jackal is frequently heard: many Shrikes and Doves formed the conspicuous ornithological feature of this place; but perhaps the non-observance of other species was due to my short stay there. We now come to another flat, much the same style of country as the others, where

we see the Secretary-bird stalking about, until we arrive at Rhinoceros River. Here are to be found more Guinea-fowl in the Mimosa thorn trees, the Hoopoe (*Upupa minor*), a few Woodpeckers, many of the Puff-backed Shrikes, Martins, &c. Hence we proceed to the Vaal river, where *Ardea goliath* is to be met with; and from this place to about ten miles north of Potchefstroom you get a great variety of Egrets and Herons, which birds are my especial favourites. Of this family I have seen and shot in the above district *Ardea egretta* (one of the most lovely, if not, indeed, the loveliest of all the Egrets of South Africa), *A. cinerea*, *A. atricollis*, *A. purpurea*, *A. bulbus*, *A. garzetta*, *A. leucoptera*, *Ardetta minuta*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Nycticorax griseus*, as well as Spoonbills, Storks, and Pelicans; so that it will be seen that the locality is a good one for water-birds. At about thirty miles north of Potchefstroom the Mooi river takes its rise, followed, more or less, by an open country; and then we get what in the colony are called Kops, or Rants, with quantities of sugar-bush, on which we found several kinds of Sun-birds. Our way then lay to Pretoria, thence to Nazareth, and afterwards to Lydenburg, the country being similar all the way. Near the latter place, however, we get a partially wooded and mountainous country; and as we draw nearer the chain of the Drakenberg the scenery increases in wildness and grandeur; here, in the deep kloofs, the loud note of *Corythaix musophaga* was heard. At the base of these mountains, in the neighbourhood of the Macamac goldfields, I found the country to be very rich in birds, and many species hitherto supposed to be peculiar to Natal occurred to us. Most of the rarer species, including the new *Bradypterus*, were obtained in this district. I must add that the neighbourhood of Rustenberg I have since found to be a favourite resort for many of the migratory European birds.

I need hardly mention a fact that I fear will be only too painfully apparent from a perusal of this paper—that I can lay no claim to a scientific knowledge of ornithology; the few notes here put together have been written at the request of Mr. Bowdler Sharpe, who has named my collection for

me; and by his advice I have applied myself on the present occasion to the distribution of the birds through the different districts traversed by me. I hope to revisit the Macamac Gold-fields; and I shall then pay even greater attention to the birds, now that I am aware of the interest that attaches to them. The collection which I brought to England is a very small one compared with that which the government of the Orange Free State took from me as a contribution to the forthcoming Philadelphia Exhibition.

The nomenclature employed is that of Mr. Sharpe's edition of Layard's '*Birds of South Africa*,' his '*Catalogue of African Birds*,' and of the first edition of Layard's '*Birds of South Africa*.'

1. OTOGYPS AURICULARIS.

I killed a fine female specimen of this Vulture with a bullet from behind a rock, in the Orange Free State; it had the ear-lappets well developed, as have all the specimens which I have noticed in South Africa. According to my experience they do not associate with the other Vultures, but keep aloof, and remain in pairs; or a single bird may sometimes be seen on a tree or rock.

I kept one in confinement, which became exceedingly tame; and it was always able to hold its own against a tame baboon which I kept in the same yard.

2. SERPENTARIUS SECRETARIUS.

I have seen this bird near Lydenburg, Rustenberg, and sparingly throughout my travels in the Transvaal and Free State. They are preserved in both places; and a heavy fine is inflicted on any person found out by the authorities to have shot one. The Secretary stalks about very majestically, and now and then makes a pounce upon something, which he swallows at once. I had two tame ones at my farm at Chalumna, British Kaffraria, which used to run about the garden; but they were very weak on their legs. In attacking a snake they would shade (or, rather, cover) the tibia with the wing, and then strike with the lower part of the tarsus and foot; when the snake was stunned it would be seized by the back

of the neck in the bird's strong beak, the foot still remaining firm, and then swallowed. My two birds were very stupid: one was killed by being squeezed to death by a pig; and the other had its leg broken by a waggon. Their note is very similar to that of the young Stanley Crane. The eggs, which are two in number, are of a dull white, dotted with light brown at the obtuse ends.

3. *CIRCUS PYGARGUS.*

I received this bird from the district of Lydenburg. I have never, to my knowledge, seen them in any quantity.

4. *CIRCUS MACRURUS.*

This I also received from near Lydenburg, where they frequent the swampy ground, and, I am informed, feed on small quadrupeds, snakes, &c.

5. *MELIERAX GABAR.*

Two specimens were sent to me from Marico; and I have seen the species near Potchefstroom. My man brought me one from near Pretoria, which he said he had shot while it was in the act of whistling. I shot two young birds off a nest near the Modder river. On examining the nest I found it to contain the limbs of a species of lizard, of a field-mouse, and various bones of little animals which I could not determine.

6. *ASTUR POLYZONOIDES.*

I shot one of these on a bush near the Vaal, and another between Potchefstroom and Rustenberg. I also received one specimen from near Marico.

7. *BUTEO JACKAL.*

The well-known shrill note of this species is to be heard at almost any time. It is a heavy-flying bird, but rather difficult to kill, being well feathered. I shot one near Bloemfontein, on our farm, where, I was told, it had been for some time. I have observed it near the Drakenberg mountains; and I received a specimen from Lydenburg. The latter is smaller than the ordinary Buzzard of the Colony.

8. *MILVUS KORSCHUN*.

I first observed this bird near Kronstadt, but I did not manage to shoot it. I have since procured it in Potchefstroom district, also near Rustenberg. I think I have seen it catching locusts with its feet; but the locusts were so thick that I could not observe the fact with certainty.

9. *ELANUS CÆRULEUS*.

Procured one near Rustenberg. It attracted my attention by a harsh cry, high in the air, which I thought to be that of an Eagle; but, to my surprise, I found it proceeded from this bird.

10. *CERCHNEIS TINNUNCULOIDES*.

I procured this bird near Rustenberg, also in the district of Potchefstroom. They feed on locusts; and after feeding, they will sit on a high tree, occasionally cleaning themselves, in sleepy repose.

11. *CERCHNEIS RUPICOLOIDES*.

This Kestrel appears to me to be the commonest one in the Transvaal. I have shot it in the Lydenburg district, near Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Rustenberg, and on my journey from Bloemfontein to Potchefstroom. One day I had shot a Black Knorhaan, which skulked away in the grass; and on turning my head I perceived a Kestrel (*C. rupicoloides*) hovering within a few yards of the place. He came down, and a battle ensued; I, being anxious, ran to procure my bird, when the Kestrel flew off to a neighbouring bush; and while I turned to look at him the Knorhaan had gone. As I had not time to search for him I conclude the Kestrel had a good meal. They appear to be gregarious, as I have often counted nine or ten of them on one tree.

12. *BUBO MACULOSUS*.

Very common in the Transvaal. I have shot and observed it between Bloemfontein and Potchefstroom, between the latter place and Rustenberg, and near Pretoria. The cracking noise they constantly make with their bill, more especially when wounded, at once distinguishes them from most of the

other South-African Owls. I have obtained them near Potchefstroom during the greater part of the year; and I procured the last one in the month of June, near Bloemfontein. I should say they are partially gregarious, as I have often seen a number together, perched in willow trees, on the points of rocks and old trees.

13. *SYRNIUM WOODFORDI*.

I obtained one of this species at Potchefstroom, and I have seen another from near that place. I shot my specimen towards evening, when it was flying about, no doubt, in pursuit of its prey.

14. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPEUS*.

I have often observed these birds flitting about at dusk; and they will sometimes settle on the ground and there remain till you have passed. I shot specimens near Kronstadt and Potchefstroom, have observed them near Rustenberg, and have also received one from Marico.

15. *CYPSELUS CAFFER*.

I shot these birds as they were in the act of appropriating a Martin's nest in Potchefstroom.

16. *MEROPS SUPERCILIOSUS*.

I noticed many of these birds near the mouth of the Mooi, at the junction of that river with the Vaal, generally close to the banks. I also received specimens of the species from Marico.

17. *MEROPS BULLOCKOIDES*.

I saw a great quantity of these birds at Olifants Nek, near Rustenberg; and I have seen a few near Potchefstroom. I shot several in January 1875, which seemed to be in very imperfect plumage, as I only got one in good feather. They will sit motionless on a mimosa thorn-bush, only flying off occasionally to catch an insect. On the approach of an intruder they will erect their tails, give a squeak, and flit off to another bush.

18. *MEROPS PUSILLUS*.

Found this species in January 1875 near Rustenberg. They are rather more shy than *M. bullockoides*, and are not so plen-

tiful; I have never seen more than a pair together. I met with one or two near Pretoria.

19. *CORACIAS GARRULA*.

I found this Roller in the same localities as *C. caudata*; and it appears to be similar in its habits to that bird, but is not so shy and is easier to approach. I have often observed them sitting motionless on the dead branch of a tree.

20. *CORACIAS CAUDATA*.

I obtained this bird near Rustenberg and on the Vaal river, and have also received it from Marico, about twenty miles north of Pretoria. The first specimen I shot was flying from tree to tree, uttering a harsh note, and throwing its head about in perfect confidence. On my wounding it and attempting to pick it up, it screamed and furiously attacked my hand. I have often chased one for hours unsuccessfully, sometimes having to cross water up to my waist, so shy and wary are these birds. They generally frequent large trees near running brooks.

21. *CORYTHORNIS CYANOSTIGMA*.

I have shot this lovely little bird in different places throughout my journey from Bloemfontein to Potchefstroom, from the latter locality to Pretoria, and thence to Lydenburg. I also met with it on my trip to Rustenberg, in British Kaffraria, and over the Kei, in the Fingoe country. It does not appear at all shy; and when I have been fishing in the Mooi river at Potchefstroom, I have often observed it flitting past, dropping in the water as if shot, and then rising with a small fish; or it would sit on a reed or twig and seem to be greatly interested in my proceedings.

22. *HALCYON ALBIVENTRIS*.

I have shot this Kingfisher near Rustenberg and Olifants Nek. I noticed several of them in the thick bush near the Megaliesberg range of mountains, and also near Pretoria.

23. *UPUPA AFRICANA*.

I saw a great many of these birds flying about the mimosa thorns on the Rhinoster river, between Kronstadt and Vaal

river. I have met with a few specimens in the Colony, and on the Modder river near Bloemfontein, Orange Free State. I shot one on my trip from the Mooi river to Rustenberg. They have a silent flight; and I have never observed them on the ground.

24. *IRRISOR ERYTHORHYNCHUS*.

I saw numbers of these Wood-Hoopoes at Olifants Nek, near Rustenberg, or rather heard them; for they keep up such an incessant chattering noise when disturbed that one is glad to get away from them. I have also seen them in British Kaffraria, Cape colony, and Olifant Hook, district Alexandria.

25. *RHINOPOMASTES CYANOMELAS*.

Mr. Lucas, a friend and fellow sportsman, brought me two specimens of this bird from Marico, where he shot it in the bush in January 1875.

26. *CORYTHAIX MUSOPHAGA*.

I have shot this bird between the Karkama and Chalumna rivers, in the dense bush a few miles from the coast. I have also observed it near Lydenburg and Macamac gold-fields, where it abounds; but owing to its shy habits and to its concealing itself in the thick foliage, I cannot speak much of its habits. I did not see it near Rustenberg; but I saw many *Schizorhis concolor*.

27. *SCHIZORHIS CONCOLOR*.

This species is common about Rustenberg; and I have received it from Marico. It makes such a noise that one cannot fail to perceive its whereabouts. Dr. Exton, of Bloemfontein, has given such an accurate description of the bird, that I shall not attempt to describe its habits (*cf.* Sharpe's ed. Layard's B. S. Afr. p. 146).

28. *CUCULUS CANORUS*.

This bird was procured at Potchefstroom in December 1874; and I have received it from Marico and the Vaal river.

29. *CUCULUS CUPREUS*.

I have shot this well-known bird on the Modder river, near Bloemfontein. Near Kronstadt I found them in great quan-

tities about the mimosa thorns, and their call could be heard the whole day. I have also shot them at Rustenberg, Potchefstroom, and Pretoria.

30. *COCCYSTES GLANDARIUS*.

I shot this bird in November 1874, on the Modder river, also near Potchefstroom. They are more shy than *C. jacobinus*.

31. *COCCYSTES JACOBINUS*.

These birds seem to have a pretty general range; for I found them on the Modder and Vaal rivers, at Potchefstroom, and Rustenberg; and I think I saw two in the bush near Pretoria. I have shot them in December, January, and February. They seem to be more common than *C. glandarius* and the other Cuckoos; at least it was so in 1874 and 1875 at Potchefstroom and through the Transvaal.

32. *POGONORHYNCHUS TORQUATUS*.

I have observed these birds near Pretoria and in Kaffraria. I shot several near Rustenberg, where they abound, especially about the fruit gardens; they have a harsh disagreeable note.

33. *POGONORHYNCHUS LEUCOMELAS*.

I have often seen this Barbet in the Transvaal, and have also received it from Marico. It appears to feed on fruit and berries.

34. *TRACHYPHONUS CAFER*.

This remarkable-looking bird I first observed in the bush under the mountains at Rustenberg, where I shot one from a tree, only wounding it, when it ran away on the ground. I secured it after some trouble.

35. *DENDROPICUS CARDINALIS*.

I have seen a few of these birds and shot one on the Rhinoster river, south of the Vaal, and have also received it from Marico.

36. *DENDROPICUS MENSTRUUS*.

I have received this species from Marico, in the Transvaal; and I have seen it at the Macamac Gold-fields, near Rusten-

berg, as well as in the bush near Pretoria; at the last place it was running up a tree.

37. *PSITTACUS MEYERI*.

I saw several of the birds in the bush near Rustenberg, and shot one. I have received them from Marico and from the northern parts of the Transvaal.

38. *TURDUS LITSITSIRUPA*.

I shot one of these Thrushes amongst some brushwood about twenty miles north of Potchefstroom. I have often caught a glimpse of this bird in the underwood; but it seems to be rather shy in its habits.

39. *TURDUS OLIVACEUS*.

This species is pretty plentiful in the bush at Macamac. I had one given to me which was said to have been shot somewhere in the Potchefstroom district. I never observed any in the Free State.

40. *CRATEROPUS JARDINII*.

I have seen this bird in the district of Potchefstroom, but never killed one myself. I was told by one of my men that he had shot it not far from the river; and I have seen a specimen said to have been procured at Marico.

41. *COSSYPHA CAFFRA*.

I received this species from Lydenburg, and saw a few at Macamac.

42. *SAXICOLA BIFASCIATA*.

But few specimens of this bird came under my notice. I procured a male, however, on a journey from Potchefstroom to Lydenburg; it was flitting about the stones on a hill-side near Wittewater Rand. I have since seen it between Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, always on elevations, and never on the plains.

43. *PRATINCOLA TORQUATA*.

I procured a female of this bird at Macamac, and received a specimen from near Pretoria in 1874.

44. *APALIS THORACICA*.

I have never seen this species elsewhere than at Macamac and Pilgrim's Rest Gold-fields.

45. *BRADYPTERUS BARRATTI*, Sharpe, *anteà*, p. 53. Plate IV.

I shot one of these birds near Pilgrim's Rest, Lydenburg Gold-fields; but I cannot say much about it, as I had no time to examine its habits. Another specimen was shot by one of my people at the same place.

Captain Shelley has also recently obtained a pair from one of his collectors at Natal.

46. *PINDALUS RUFICAPILLUS*.

Met with at Macamac and between that place and Pilgrim's Rest Gold-fields.

47. *CHLOROPETA NATALENSIS*, Smith.

Sylvia natalensis, Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 102.

Between Macamac and Lydenburg.

48. *ZOSTEROPS VIRENS*.

I shot this only at Macamac.

49. *PROMEROPS GURNEYI*.

This species was procured only between Pretoria and Lydenburg. I found it in the zuikerbosch, or sugar-bush.

50. *NECTARINIA FAMOSA*.

Common at the Lydenburg Gold-fields and Macamac, and about the bush near the Drakenberg mountains, also on the sides of the hills amongst the aloes near Rustenberg. My man brought me specimens from several places in the Transvaal. I have seen it in the Colony and British Kaffraria. I have had specimens in different plumage; and they appear to be at their best, at the Gold-fields, in January, in the rainy season. They come out between the showers and fly about, looking very gay in their light-green plumage.

51. *NECTARINIA CHALYBEA*.

I have procured this Sunbird at Macamac, near Lydenburg, Rustenberg, near Pretoria, Bloemfontein, and in British Kaffraria, where they are very abundant. I have seen as many



as thirty or forty fluttering about and inserting their long beaks into the scarlet blossoms of the Kaffir boom-tree, visiting first one flower and then another.

52. *NECTARINIA AMETHYSTINA*.

Shot one or two near Rustenberg, and observed it more than once during my journey through the bush between Potchefstroom and Rustenberg. I also saw a few in the bush near Pretoria, and I have killed it in British Kaffraria, near East London, in company with *N. chalybea*; it is, however, much more shy in its habits than the latter bird.

53. *BUTALIS UNDULATA*.

From Macamac.

54. *POGONOCICHLA STELLATA*.

Common at Macamac Gold-fields. I did not observe them near Rustenberg.

55. *LIOPTILUS NIGRICAPILLUS*.

From near Lydenburg and Pilgrim's Rest Gold-fields.

56. *BATIS CAPENSIS*.

From Macamac. Procured on the stony coppices on the sides of the hills, where I observed them flitting about among the stunted brushwood.

57. *TERPSIPHONE VIRIDIS*.

I shot one of these birds near the town of Rustenberg; and I found them also near the waterfall under the mountain, and by the side of an old stone wall. I have also seen them in the bush near Pretoria.

58. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*.

I brought home two specimens killed in the neighbourhood of Potchefstroom. One is a male, apparently adult, but not quite in full plumage, not having the long outer tail-feathers. The other is in the curious young plumage, which, it appears, the Common Swallow assumes only during its sojourn in South Africa: the head is brown, with no trace of a frontal patch; and the throat is white. These Swallows appear every year in the district of Potchefstroom during our summer months.

59. *PSALIDOPROCNE HOLOMELÆNA*.

Both at Rustenberg and Macamac this bird was rather scarce. I shot them in the forest as they flew up and down in the open spaces.

60. *DICRURUS MUSICUS*.

This Drongo Shrike I observed in great quantities in the bush near the Magaliesberg mountains, on the Rhinoster river (Free State), in the bush about the Vaal, and in many other places in the Transvaal. They chase one another about, occasionally making a swoop on some insect, returning to a twig to enjoy their meal; at the same time any thing but a musical chorus is kept up by them.

61. *COLIUS CAPENSIS*.

I noticed this bird in the Potchefstroom district, and killed it on the Vaal river. I have also received it from Marico, but did not observe it at Macamac.

62. *COLIUS STRIATUS*.

This bird was often observed at Macamac and elsewhere on my route from Potchefstroom to the Gold-fields. All the species of this genus, as far as I could make out, closely resemble each other in their habits. In British Kaffraria one cannot give a Kaffir a greater treat than a few "Mouse-birds," as they are called; and if one of them flies from a bush, sticks and knobkerries will be thrown with such precision that the poor bird has very little chance of escape.

63. *DRYOSCOPIUS BOULBOUL*.

Shot near Lydenburg. I also received it from Macamac Gold-fields, near the Drakenberg mountains. It has a peculiar habit of puffing itself out, which is thought by some to be a habit it assumes in order to terrify other birds. It is certainly very pugnacious, and will not allow others to molest it.

64. *LANARIUS ATROCOCCINEUS*.

This bright-coloured little bird I shot in some low under-wood on the slopes of the Magaliesberg mountains. They do not appear at all shy, and are very quick in their movements.

65. PRIONOPS TALACOMA.

This bird somewhat resembles in its habits *L. atrococcineus*, but, although frequenting the low bushes, does not confine itself to the underwood, but comes out in the open and hunts about for insects. Sometimes they are to be seen on a high bush; but this is seldom the case. I shot my specimen at Oliphants Nek, near Rustenberg, where I found them in flocks of five or six together.

66. LANIUS COLLARIS.

Have seen this bird on the Rhinoster river a few miles south of the Vaal; and I have also received it from Macamac, and shot it myself in the neighbourhood of Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein. The peculiar habits of this bird in killing its victims would astonish any one not acquainted with the habits of Shrikes. I have seen the bare side of a bush in our garden near Bloemfontein covered with locusts and sometimes as many as twenty insects in a state of decomposition; occasionally, too, bones are observed hanging about. I have noticed this species frequently in British Kaffraria.

67. LANIUS COLLURIO.

Shot one in the Potchefstroom district; and I think I have seen it in the Colony itself.

68. ORIOLUS GALBULA.

I observed several of these birds in the bush near Rustenberg; and I think I saw them at Lydenburg Gold-fields. I also received a specimen from Marico. They are rather abundant, but at the same time so wary of approach that it was some time before I got a specimen. They frequent the tops of trees; and I have never observed them on the ground.

69. ORIOLUS LARVATUS.

I shot this species, after some trouble in approaching it, about four miles west of Rustenberg.

70. AMYDRUS MORIO.

This species is found distributed at certain seasons throughout the greater part of the Transvaal and Free State; the birds are generally to be found in the fruit-gardens.

71. LAMPROCOLIUS PHENICOPTERUS.

This bird I met with in several parts of the Transvaal and Free State. They congregate in vast flocks, and keep up a harsh chattering noise. I have also shot them near Pretoria, Rustenberg, Potchefstroom, and near Bloemfontein; and I noticed them on my farm on the Chaumna, British Kaffraria, where they frequented the barns and buildings, continually flying to and fro, like English Starlings.

72. PHOLIDAUGES VERREAUXI.

Specimens were procured by me near Rustenberg, associated with the *Amydrus*. I also saw odd ones here and there about the old fruit-gardens.

73. HYPHANTORNIS CAPENSIS.

Procured this bird at Potchefstroom and adjoining district. They build their nests in the trees, and seem to be continually on the move, always appearing too busy to notice the presence of a stranger.

74. PLOCEUS ORYX.

The Red "Caffre-Fink" breeds in reeds near gardens, and is plentiful about Bloemfontein, in the Free State, thence to the Vaal river, Kronstadt, near Rustenberg, Pretoria, and Potchefstroom. It is a very local bird; and I found it in only a few places along the Vaal near the Diamond-fields; but I did not observe it flying everywhere, like *Chera progné*.

75. EUPLECTES TAHA.

Found this bird flying about the reeds which skirt the ditches &c. I shot my first specimen near the Modder river, near Bloemfontein. It is very plentiful at Potchefstroom about the skirts of the vleys or swamps adjoining the town. I have got them all the way up from the Modder river to Potchefstroom, near Bloemfontein, Rustenberg, Pretoria, Nazareth; and I think I saw a few near the Gold-fields.

76. EUPLECTES CAPENSIS.

Common in the Free State and Transvaal. I have found them breeding near Kronstadt, in the Free State, also about Potchefstroom and elsewhere in the Transvaal, where they

are to be seen in company with *Euplectes oryx* in the reeds near homesteads. The male birds are generally observed perched on, or rather clinging to the tops of the reeds above their dome-shaped nests.

77. CHERA PROGNE.

I first met with this graceful bird in the district of Kingwilliamstown; thence I found it on my journey through Queenstown, Allival North, Basuto Land, Orange Free State, through the Transvaal, Potchefstroom, Pretoria, Lydenburg, up to the Gold-fields, near the Drakenberg mountains, and at Rustenberg. Its favourite resorts are swampy ground, vleys, and the long reeds about ponds. After a sharp shower of rain, or in a strong wind, they are scarcely able to fly, and can easily be knocked down; when flying they very gracefully arch the tail. They leave their nuptial district in the Transvaal about the end of April or the beginning of May.

78. VIDUA PARADISEA.

Obtained my specimen near Rustenberg, where they seem rather scarce. I have observed it near the Diamond-fields within a short distance of the Vaal river.

79. VIDUA ARDENS.

I shot this little bird between Potchefstroom and Rustenberg, and also near Pretoria. I have seen it at Macamac Gold-fields; but I have not noticed it further south than Rhinoster river.

80. HYPOCHERA CHALYBEATA.

I found a few of this species in and around a large fruit-garden, a few miles from Rustenberg. The ones procured were scattered about the hedgerows, where I shot them.

81. PYRENESTES ALBIFRONS.

I shot this bird at Macamac Gold-fields, but have never received it from anywhere else.

82. ESTRElda CYANOgASTRA.

Shot this Finch round about the old gardens at Rustenberg. I did not see many of them in flocks; and they appear to be rather local birds.

83. ESTRELLDA ASTRILD.

I recognized this little bird nearly all over the country, Orange Free State, Diamond-fields, Potchefstroom, Pretoria, Lydenburg Gold-fields; and I have seen it in the Kaffir gardens a few miles further north. I also met with it at Rustenberg. They congregate in large flocks, and are said by the Boers and farmers to do considerable damage to the grain crops.

84. MACRONYX CROCEUS.

This bird is often killed by waggon-drivers with the whip; and I have frequently done so myself when I wanted a specimen. I have seen it from Bloemfontein up to Pretoria and Nazareth, and on my trip to Rustenberg. I have never observed them elsewhere than in the grass.

85. COLUMBA GUINEÆ.

Common in the Transvaal. They fly about in vast flocks among the crops and on newly ploughed land. I have shot several near Potchefstroom and Pretoria.

86. TURTUR SEMITORQUATUS.

Have shot this species on Vaal river near Rustenberg. I received it from Marico, and have seen it in many places throughout the Transvaal and Free State.

87. PERISTERA LARVATA.

Received this bird from Macamac Gold-fields, where it is not very uncommon.

88. COTURNIX DACTYLISONANS.

Have shot this Quail in the Chalumna district, British Kaffraria, where it arrived in great numbers about the end of August. In the Transvaal it is widely distributed. I have shot it near Pretoria, Rustenberg, Nazareth, and many other places. I received my last from Marico district.

89. FRANCOLINUS AFER.

Have shot this species in the district of Potchefstroom. I obtained all my specimens in stony elevations and on the sides of mountains, where they are found in considerable quantity early in the morning.

90. *FRANCOLINUS NUDICOLLIS*.

I procured this bird in the district of Lydenburg and in Chalumna district, British Kaffraria, always in the thick bush, where their loud cackling note is heard during the greater part of the early morning.

91. *FRANCOLINUS NATALENSIS*.

I shot one near Rustenberg in the thick brushwood: it ran rapidly for some time before we could get a shot at it.

92. *FRANCOLINUS SWAINSONI*.

This species I observed on my route between Lydenburg and the Gold-fields. They appear to be fond of water, especially small streams, where they are found at early morn. At night they frequent the dead brushwood, and the open in the daytime. I am not certain whether I observed them on my trip to Rustenberg; but I have received specimens from Macamac.

93. *ANTHROPOIDES STANLEYANUS*.

The Stanley Crane is generally distributed throughout the Transvaal and Free State; and I have met with it in great quantities between Bloemfontein and Potchefstroom. In the winter I have seen as many as fifty in a flock, besides many more in the neighbouring vleys; they are difficult to approach, but they can be shot with a rifle. They breed in the reeds, and I have received eggs from the district of Potchefstroom. Their long drooping feathers are readily bought by traders from up the country, who sell or exchange them to the native tribes. They become very tame in confinement, and will eat out of the hand, and follow one about. I have never shot them further north than within a few miles south of Lydenburg.

94. *BALEARICA REGULORUM*.

In the district of Potchefstroom this bird is not at all uncommon. I have seen them between Bloemfontein, Potchefstroom, and Pretoria. In the winter they may be seen half a dozen together; but in the time of nidification they are only found in pairs. I have never found two pairs breeding to-

gether in the same vley, but always some distance apart; and they can be heard a long way off, calling out "mahem" with a delightful mellow note. At the present time I have four living which I brought over from the Orange Free State and Transvaal. They all, with the exception of the young one, have the white cheek: I have seen birds from the western coast with it red; but I have never seen them so from the Transvaal. All I have shot, heard of, or seen, have had the cheek white. The eggs I have always found to be white with a bluish cast; some state, however, that they are spotted; but I have never found them so. I have seen these birds a few miles north of Pretoria.

95. ARDEA PURPUREA.

The Purple Heron I have met with throughout my travels in the Free State and the Transvaal, but not further north than Nazareth, in the latter State. I found it became less common in the southern portions of the Free State, and *A. cinerea* seemed to take its place to a great extent. It is not so shy as most of the Herons; for I could generally easily procure a specimen near Potchefstroom when required.

96. ARDEA GARZETTA.

I shot specimens of this lovely little Egret near Pretoria, and I have shot them near Potchefstroom both in winter and summer.

97. ARDEA EGRETTA.

This graceful bird, with its long sweeping plumes, is too well known to need any description. It is, however, generally very shy, and not easily procured.

98. ARDEA ARDESIACA.

This Heron was shot near Potchefstroom while sitting on a stone.

99. ARDEA LEUCOPTERA.

I shot the best of my specimens of this lovely bird in October, when it was in magnificent plumage. It is, however, a rather wary bird; and I have often watched them from a distance standing near a vley and occasionally curving their long necks.

100. ARDEA BUBULCUS.

I shot a fine male of this species in a flock which were hopping about under some oxen, from which they were picking off the ticks. I have obtained them close to Lydenburg and Potchefstroom, and I have seen them near Pretoria, Rustenberg, and near the Vaal river. They congregate in flocks, standing on one leg basking in the sun.

101. ARDETTA MINUTA.

The Little Bittern is considered to be rather rare in the Transvaal. I procured two specimens on one occasion only, in December 1874. As these birds have a knack of hiding in the reeds, they, no doubt, often pass unobserved.

102. BOTHAURUS STELLARIS.

The Bittern is found plentifully in the district of Potchefstroom. Their booming note used at one time to so frighten the Boers that they would never go into a vley, even on horseback, when they heard it, believing it was a large snake. I have shot them near Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, but never further north than about thirty miles north of Potchefstroom.

103. TANTALUS IBIS.

I procured one of these at Potchefstroom, where, I am told, a few are sometimes seen together; but in 1875 mine was the only specimen obtained in the district. It is said that they inhabit similar places to *G. æthiopicus*.

104. GERONTICUS ÆTHIOPICUS.

I have observed these birds in flocks of about ten or a dozen at the sides of vleys and swampy places near Potchefstroom and towards the mouth of the Mooi river, where their white plumage and black shining necks cannot but attract the notice of the bystander. They walk about thrusting their long bills into the mud, and then will stop suddenly and appear to listen with their heads on one side, when they fly off, and circling round alight a few yards further away. They have their favourite feeding-places, which I generally found to be in corners near the bends of the rivers. I have also shot

them near Bloemfontein, and I have observed them a few miles south of Pretoria.

105. GLAREOLA MELANOPTERA.

I have seen quantities of these birds among a flight of locusts, darting about and destroying thousands of them in a very short time. Have shot them near Pretoria, Transvaal, in 1874, also in March 1875.

106. CURSORIUS BICINCTUS.

I first found this little bird running rapidly along between the herbage growing on the flats near Sandy River, Orange Free State. I have often watched the waggon-drivers run after them with their whips; and the birds would run a long way before flying, and then only for a few yards. I have seen them further north, but do not remember having seen them close to the Lydenburg Gold-fields.

107. HOPLOPTERUS ARMATUS.

In great abundance about Potchefstroom; and their continual clicking makes more noise than all the other birds together. I met with them in suitable places close to Lydenburg and in the greater part of my journey from Bloemfontein to the Gold-fields. I found them also on my trip to Rustenberg.

108. GALLINAGO ÆQUATORIALIS.

This Snipe is distributed through the greater part of the Transvaal; and they breed in considerable quantities in the swamp below Potchefstroom. In the winter months (May, June, and July) they appear in great numbers and are shot for forwarding to the Diamond-fields, where they command a fair price.

109. RHYNCHÆA CAPENSIS.

This beautiful Snipe does not frequent the marshy ground about Potchefstroom in such great numbers as the last; as I have never known more than five or six to have been seen in a month or so. That is about the same place where one can see thousands of *G. æquatorialis*, which breed there; but I have never found the eggs of *Rhynchæa*.

110. *TOTANUS CANESCENS*.

Shot this on a vley near the Modder river, also near Kronstadt and near Potchefstroom. They are often seen with *Totanus ochropus* flying about the farmers' dams.

111. *NUMENIUS ARQUATUS*.

I have observed these birds near the vleys and in the swamps near Potchefstroom, curling round and uttering loud cries; but I have never observed it further north. They are rather shy, and I only succeeded in procuring a single specimen.

112. *ORTYGOMETRA CREX*.

I received one specimen from the district of Lydenburg, where, I am told, they are rather rare and not easily killed, being shy in their habits.

113. *RALLUS CÆRULEUS*.

This species is considerably abundant in the Transvaal; and I have shot them as they flew among the rushes and reeds bordering the Mooi river, but have often lost them in the reeds.

114. *LIMNOCORAX NIGER*.

Not uncommon in the vleys and reeds about the Mooi river, Potchefstroom; and I have seen it a few miles south of Pretoria. They are rather shy, and are very quick in their movements.

115. *GALLINULA CHLOROPUS*.

I have shot this species near the Orange river in vleys and swamps, and in the Transvaal as far as Lydenburg. I have also received specimens shot in December near Pretoria.

116. *FULICA CRISTATA*.

The Crested Coot is by no means rare, frequenting the same places as *G. chloropus*. It is very quick in its movements, and can run very rapidly on its feet as well as being a swift swimmer. I have seen the young ones swimming with the egg-shell still attached to them; and it is curious to see the manner in which they disappear when alarmed. Towards the mouth of the Mooi river, near the Vaal, I found

them in great abundance. I have shot them a few hours north of Pretoria.

117. *SARKIDIORNIS AFRICANA*.

This bird was shot near Potchefstroom in company with *Dendrocygna viduata*.

118. *DENDROCYGNA VIDUATA*.

I shot this near Potchefstroom, where, I am informed, it is rare.

119. *PODICEPS MINOR*.

This species frequents vleys and reeds near Potchefstroom and the mouth of the Mooi river; they are very quick in their movements and not easily shot.

120. *GRACULUS CARBO*.

I shot one of these near Kronstadt, Orange Free State, the only one I have ever seen in that state or the Transvaal. I found it resting on an overhanging branch near a small stream. When I fired it dropped into the water and dived; on its rising I gave it the second barrel, which brought it down.

121. *GRACULUS AFRICANUS*.

This little Cormorant is extremely common near Potchefstroom, where they can be seen in dozens. I have shot them near Pretoria, and found them to vary a great deal in their plumage. They dive with great rapidity, but when first rising from the water are rather slow, so are easily killed; but if they attain an elevation they fly swiftly and are very watchful, twisting their long necks from side to side.

122. *PLOTUS CONGENSIS*.

The Anhinga, or Snake-bird, is found in certain localities throughout the Transvaal. I have shot them near Potchefstroom and Lydenburg, and I have seen them near Pretoria and near the Modder river, Orange Free State. I have often seen them sitting on a dead bush overhanging the water; but on shooting at them they have dived so quickly that I have lost them, not being able to see which way they had gone. I observed several in the Chaumna district, between the Kas-kama and Buffalo River, British Kaffraria.